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Teaching talk: should students learn 'real German'?

Watts, Sheila (2000) *Teaching talk: should students learn 'real German'?* GFL (German as a Foreign Language)



Text

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Abstract

This paper looks at the ways in which learners develop the skill of speaking German and questions the speech styles are prioritised. It is observed that speech tends to be the skill which is concentrated on in language acquisition, and that it is comparatively neglected at advanced level. As a result of the privilege which have more in common with written texts than with naturally-occurring speech – ‘real German’ – 1 abroad tend to have poor interactional skills and low levels of pragmatic knowledge, which makes it difficult and form relationships with their German-speaking peers. It is suggested that a study of the linguistic and conversation can help students to improve their pragmatic competence and hence to have a more pleasant encounter with the German-speaking world. Since the use of new media in communication has resulted in the importance of formal writing, an increased understanding of spoken German is also a necessary skill for careers.

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